LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

LOOKOUT AVE.

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 2 FEBRUARY, 1985

Champagne Brunch & General Meeting

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 1985

11:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

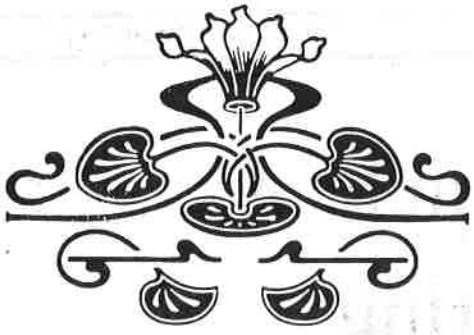


The La Mesa Historical Society Champagne Brunch and General Meeting will be held at the American Legion Hall, 8118 University in La Mesa on Sunday, March 3. The menu will consist of mixed fruit, biscuits, scrambled eggs, ham, sausages, sweet rolls, champagne punch, orange juice, coffee and tea--all for $6.50. The social will start at 11:00 a.m. and brunch will be served at 11:45.

The El Cajon Historical Society will present an exhibit of photographs of early El Cajon and entertainment will be provided by the Singing Hills Chapter of the Sweet Adelines. A brief business meeting will be held at which time two members and two alternates will be elected by the general membership to serve on the Nominating Committee which will select the 1985-1986 LMHS Board of Directors. Reservations for the brunch can be made now by calling 463-0197 or 466-7819.

CALENDAR

March 1&2	Congress of History Convention
March 3	LMHS Champagne Brunch & General Meeting
March 22-24	International History Fair
May 3	LMHS General Meeting
June 9	Ice Cream Social



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The La Mesa Historical Society extends a warm welcome to members who have recently joined and thanks those who have upgraded their membership catagory:

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Brinkley
Sue Dunn & Paul Fuelling
Paul Hahn
Robert Kling
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Neill
Karen Ranney
Roger Skarr
Dr. R. J. Splinter (Life)
Patricia Ueland

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Chisholm (upgraded to Patron)
Mrs. Alice Crittenden (upgraded to Life)
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Griffen (upgraded to Family)



LOOKOUT AVENUE is the official publication of the La Mesa Historical Socity, P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, California, 92041. Published quarterly.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL -- SUNDAY JUNE 9

Our annual social will be held on Sunday, June 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the McKinney House. The menu will include barbecued chicken, ice cream, home-baked goodies, and Marie Calendar pies. Fred Hart's band and the Sweet Adelines will be our entertainment. A drawing will be held with a hand-quilted quilt, made by the LMHS Quilters, as first prize. Plants and white elephants will be sold. Put this event on your calendar and come join the festivities on June 9. Remember to save unwanted but good salable items for our white elephant sale (no clothing, please); start your plantings now if you are donating plants to sell. You'll hear more about this event in our next newsletter.

LMHS GENERAL MEETING -- SUNDAY, MAY 5

The La Mesa Historical Society Spring General Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 5, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the La Mesa Community Center in MacArthur Park. The San Diego Historical Society will present its newest slide program, which traces the history and development of Balboa Park; you won't want to miss this special presentation. Election of our 1985-1986 Board of Directors will also be held, and refreshments will be served. More information will be forthcoming regarding this event.

MEMBERSHIP

Second reminders for dues were mailed February 1, along with membership cards. Due to unforeseen circumstances cards and notices were sent out later than is usual. Please forgive the delay; we hope that it hasn't caused too much confusion. Thank you for your support; your membership is important to continuing the collection and preservation of La Mesa's history.



ORCHIDS TO . . . .

Louis Granger for his donation of time, material, and talent, and his willingness to help the Society when plumbing problems occur at the McKinney House

Don and Tess Mathis for selling 250 tickets in the Society's Christmas Drawing and for locating the antique clock which was the first prize.

Don Olson of La Mesa Lumber for reworking a quilt frame for the LMHS Quilters and donating material for it.

Joyce Radcliffe for her beautiful calligraphy on the Christmas Open House flier and so many others.

Phil Radcliffe for his generosity in helping to make our exhibits possible by building exhibit platforms, quilt racks, stanchions, and, most recently, a set of one-foot wooden cubes.

WE HAVE SEVERAL NEEDS--MAYBE YOU CAN HELP. . . .

The Society is in need of someone who is handy around the house. For example: shelves need to be built in the McKinney House garage so that supplies and other materials can be stored up off the floor; a few of the windows in the house have broken sash cords and need to be rehung; free-standing shelves are needed in closets in the office and elsewhere to provide more efficient storage; and exhibit panels are needed for the office. If you know of anyone who would be willing to donate several hours from time to time we would be extremely grateful. Please call Pat Kettler at 463-0197 or Donna Regan at 460-3726.

KARNA WEBSTER NEW LMHS SECRETARY

At its February 18 meeting the La Mesa Historical Society Board of Directors voted to appoint former Board member Karna Webster as Secretary to fill out the remainder of the 1984-1985 term of office. The resignation of departing Secretary Kay Kester was accepted with regret.



LA MESA SPRINGS

SCOUT

Is the only newspaper in the world whose interest is wholly in La Mesa Springs, her people, her growth, her business.

Stand By Such a Paper

FEBRUARY 3, 1911

LA MESA SCOUT NEWSPAPERS

Work is nearly completed on the project of putting past years of La Mesa Scout newspapers in chronological order and wrapping each year in paper to provide protection from light and dust.

Some of the extra 1960's and 1970's Scouts are available at the McKinney House for use by those doing research. We are putting in order the 1950's 1960's, 1970's and 1980's for the microfiling - an ongoing project of the La Mesa Historical Society. Unfortunately, a number of issues from the years 1978, 1979, and 1980 are missing. If you happen to save past years of this newspaper and would be willing to donate them to the Society, please contact me at 463-0197. -Pat Kettler

GRABLE PHOTOGRAPHS COPIED

An important addition was made to the photograph collection of the La Mesa Historical Society in January when over 40 photographs belonging to Sherman F. Grable were copied. Mr. Grable is the grandson of prominent land developer Sherman C. Grable, who came to La Mesa in 1905 and, in partnership with C. C. Park, developed 200 acres into 1,000 lots which continued to be sold between 1906 and 1930. The development activities of the Park-Grable Investment Company began the transformation of La Mesa from an agricultural area to a residential community. Grable's first subdivision included Date and Acacia Avenues and Nebo Drive. His lovely home, "Hillcrest," graces the top of the hill at the south end of Date Avenue. The Society now has in its collection a number of photographs of Grable family members, "Hillcrest" and other La Mesa homes, local friends of the Grables (including Marie and Cromwell McKinney), and several La Mesa street scenes and panoramas.



Winners of prizes in a La Mesa Clean-Up Day, circa 1911, in front of the Park-Grable Investment Company office, northeast corner of Spring Street and La Mesa Boulevard. Second from left is Sherman C. Grable (with broom); third from right (behind hoe) is Rev. Henry McKinney. Participants in these early community clean-up days frequently followed their labors with a picnic in Eucalyptus Canyon. (Grable Collection)



Frank Grable, son of Sherman C. Grable, and Fern Sperbeck, April, 1915. Married May 17, 1917, Frank and Fern were the parents of Sherman F. Grable, Geraldine Grable Austin, and Lornelle Grable Jeffers. (Grable Collection)



Early La Mesa and San Diego developer Sherman C. Grable (Grable Collection)

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Mrs. Katherine Parr has donated an original photograph showing the front of the La Mesa Methodist Church with several cars and trucks parked in front of it, circa 1929. Mr. Edward Hollingsworth, Manager of the La Mesa office of the San Diego Gas & Electric Company, and several other businessmen are seen in the photograph.

Four post cards with panorama scenes of La Mesa, circa 1910, were given to the La Mesa Library by Mr. R. P. Heilbron. The library has presented them to the Society.

A boy doll with composition head and hands and cloth body has been received from Mrs. Lester Freeman.

An old insulator from the original wires on the 8300 block of University Avenue has been donated by Elsie and George Burdick.

Gilbert Mouto has donated a program from the sixteenth annual commencement of Helix High School.

NOTES FROM THE QUILTERS

The Poet asked: "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

Bearing this in mind the La Mesa Historical Society Quilters have been planning projects for the future--especially for the Ice Cream Social in June. A quilt is almost completed for the drawing, and it is as attractive as the one for which ticket sales were excellent last June. It is Spider Web pattern with shades of aqua as the main color.

Recently, a crisis occurred when the frame to be used by the Quilters needed adjustment to accommodate a larger quilt to be done as a money-making project. We called the La Mesa Lumber Company for advice, and Mr. Don Olson responded with help, making adjustments and contributing materials. We are very grateful for his prompt help.

In addition to quilting for other people, a new project undertaken recently is restoration work. Two new members of our group, Helen Jones and Marie Taylor, are completing work on an heirloom quilt belonging to a LMHS member. This will probably be a continuing aspect of our work, as more people become aware of the value of their old quilts.

Need for materials continues. Contributions of cotton or cotton blend materials are especially welcome. Fabric we can't use is passed on to other organizations. If members have left-over batting from their projects, it, too, can be used in our smaller items.

The Quilters have been organized since 1978. We welcome new members and would start an afternoon meeting if several people would prefer that. We now meet every Wednesday morning except for a few holidays during the year. Quilting skill is not required, for other projects are always at hand.

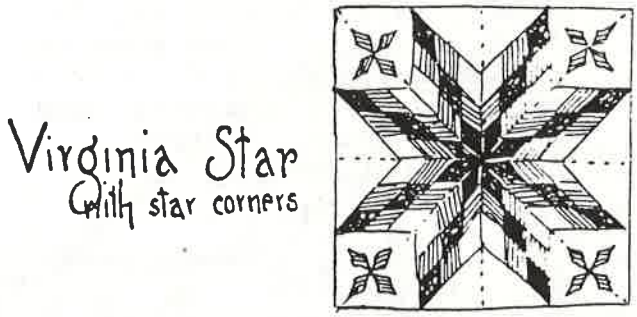
-Mildred Bryan

ATTENTION: PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS, UNCLES AND FRIENDS:

The Quilters keep baby quilts on hand for sale. Youth quilts are available, also. They are for use by children when they leave cribs for larger beds.

These will be on display and for sale at the Spring Brunch. Whenever the need arises at other times, they may be seen at the McKinney House in the Quilters' upstairs workroom. Workers are there every Wednesday morning except holidays, or call Mildred Bryan, 466-2801.

The Quilters have something special for that special young person!

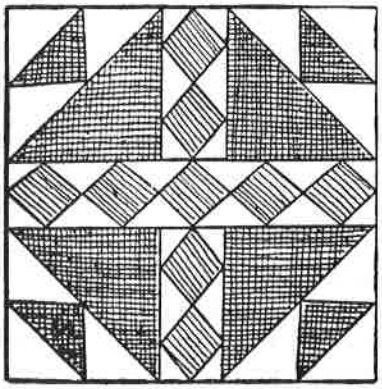


CALIFORNIA HERITAGE QUILT PROJECT

Work has begun on the California Heritage Quilt Project, a statewide effort to search for and register quilts brought to California before 1945. The Project will include a series of "Quilt Days" held throughout the state. These days will serve to locate and register quilts for the Project. Owners of quilts made or brought to California prior to 1945 are being invited to bring their heirloom treasures for a team to record owner and maker data, physical condition and aspects of design. Sometimes quilts of simple design and a variety of scrap fabrics can yield valuable information for quilt historians. The Project is also gathering information for an eventual book and two major museum shows.

The California Heritage Quilt Project hopes to encourage families to enjoy and retain these special heirloom quilts. It is not the purpose of the project to provide appraisal or valuation of quilts and not to act as brokers.

The inaugural "Quilt Day" is scheduled for Wednesday, February 27, 1985, in Sacramento, California, at St. Mark's Church, 2391 St. Mark's Way. Over fifty "Quilt Days" are being scheduled and one will be held in your area. For further information please contact: California Heritage Quilt Project, P.O. Box 270, Mill Valley, California, 94942



Bird's Nest

RECENT McKINNEY HOUSE TOURS

On December 1, the McKinney House was one of four homes included in an afternoon tour sponsored by the League of Women Voters. More than 50 visitors were welcomed to the house by docents Nina Reed, Donna Regan, and Pat Kettler.

A slide program on La Mesa's history and a tour of the McKinney House were given to Girl Scout Troop #6059 from Murdock Elementary School on Thursday, February 7. Pat Kettler presented the slide program and Nina Reed served as docent.



MEMBERSHIP IN THE LA MESA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society depends upon membership dues, contributions, bequests, and fund-raising activities to support restoration and preservation of local history.

Memberships and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Membership categories:

_____ Life (Single) $100.00

_____ Patron 25.00

_____ Sponsor/Organization 15.00

_____ Family (2 adults) 12.00

_____ Individual 7.00

_____ Student (under 18 yrs) 1.00

Please complete and return this form to:
La Mesa Historical Society
P.O. Box 882, La Mesa, CA 92041

_____
Name

_____
Address

_____
City State Zip

Telephone: _____

_____ I am interested in being involved in the society's work. Please call me.



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AND DRAWING REPORT

I want to thank everyone who worked to make our annual Christmas Open House so successful. As you will see when reading the financial statement, the antique clock, the two hand-quilted pillows, lunch for two at Christina's, and dinner for two at Jamar's were very popular drawing prizes. We sold a total of 1372 tickets, which after deducting expenses resulted in a net profit for the drawing of $1136.30. All those hours of sitting in banks selling tickets were really worth it. Many members helped in the banks or by taking books of tickets to sell; special mention should be made of Don and Tess Mathis, who sold 250 tickets between them. We hope to have another antique clock for the drawing at our next Christmas Open House.

The McKinney House was again dressed up for the holidays with berries, greenery and candles, and the declicious aroma of gingerbread once again wafted from the kitchen, thanks to Mabel Perrapato and Nadine Washburn. The sounds of lovely Christmas carols were heard on the old parlor organ, played by Evelyn Estabrook, and the LMHS Quilters had a beautiful display of their handi-work for sale in the office, with many happy customers.

The drawing was held at 3:00 p.m. and the lucky winners were: (First) Mrs. B. Roberts--Gilbert mantle clock, patented 1870;(Second) Mrs. Edie Olmstead--pair of pillows hand-quilted by the LMHS Quilters; (Third) Mr. John L. Cozart--lunch for two at Christina's; (Fourth) Mrs. Joan Sutherland--dinner for two at Jamar Restaurant.

The exhibit of American mantle clocks and men's pocket watches, presented by San Diego Chapter 59 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, was coordinated by Don Mathis and Loren Schmitz. The clocks, which included examples with porcelain as well as wood cases, were made between 1860 and 1900, and the watches dated from 1870 to 1920. The exhibit was a treat to the eye and left one with a strong desire to own one of these beautiful time-pieces.

-Pat Kettler, President

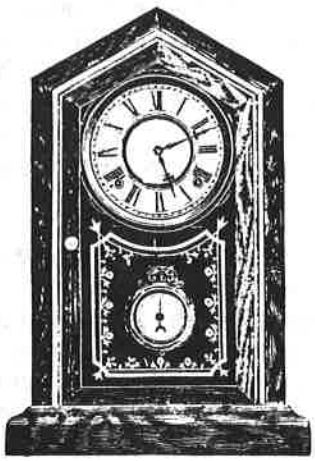
1984 CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

RECEIPTS

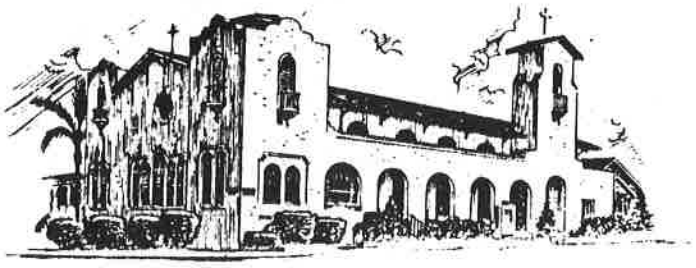
Clock drawing.	$1372.00
Quilters' sales.	120.00
Sales (post cards)	3.25
Donations.	12.00
Gross Profit	$1507.25

EXPENSES

Clock.	$ 135.00
Drawing tickets (1500) . . .	100.70
Printing of fliers	30.27
Postage for fliers	19.24
½-sheet handouts	7.95
Christmas tree	8.24
Food	33.40
Exhibit materials.	10.50
Total expenses	$ 345.30
Net Profit	$1161.95



Waterbury Clock catalogue,1895



Central Congregational Church

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HISTORY PUBLISHED

To commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding, Central Congregational Church of La Mesa published Portrait of a Church, 1909-1984 this past November. Written by Central Church and LMHS member Eckoe Ahern, the 38-page history includes photographs of the church and of early La Mesa from the collection of the La Mesa Historical Society. Copies of the history are available for $3.00, or two for $5.00, at Central Congregational, 8360 Lemon Avenue. Please call church secretary Ruth Evans at 466-1261 for further information.

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING AND PIE FESTIVAL

LMHS members gathered at the Nan Couts Cottage in MacArthur Park for the Fall General Meeting and Pie Festival on Sunday, October 28. The featured speaker was Marguerite Lingenfelter of the El Cajon Historical Society, whose slide presentation, "Contrasts," traced the history of that community from the days of the ranchos to the present. Early photographs and drawings illustrating El Cajon's development as an agricultural area were shown in conjunction with views of the same sites today. Of special interest were the early ranch houses, some dating back to the 1870's, which are still in existence.

CONGRESS OF HISTORY CONVENTION MARCH 1 & 2

The Congress of History, which is made up of the historical organizations of San Diego County plus interested individuals, will hold its twenty-first annual convention on Friday and Saturday, March 1 and 2, at the San Diego Hotel, 339 West Broadway. The theme of this year's convention, "The 1880's--Boom and Bust," explores an exciting period in the history of San Diego County. Speakers include: Karna Webster, "The 1880's, A Fabulous Decade"; Eric Sanders, "The Cuyamaca Railroad"; and Emily Wilt, "Escondido--Born in the Boom." Among other topics covered will be early San Diego merchants, the Hotel Del Coronado, and the communities of Lakeside, Julian, and Ramona. A special walking tour of the Gaslamp Quarter is planned. Basic registration for the convention is $5.00; meals are additional and must be reserved by February 25. For more information call Karna Webster, 463-1029.

INTERNATIONAL HISTORY FAIR MARCH 22-24

The third International History Fair is expected to draw more than 3,500 participants from junior and senior high schools in San Diego County and Tijuana. Sponsored by the San Diego Historical Society, San Diego State University, and the Universidad Automonoma de Baja California, the History Fair will be held this year in the Conference Building in Balboa Park from March 22 to March 24. Students will have the opportunity to compete for prizes in community or family history projects, which will be judged by scholars and community members. These projects may be in the form of exhibits, papers, audio-visual presentations, and group/individual performances (music, dance, poetry, or drama). For more information, call Carla Gregory of SDSU at 265-5780.



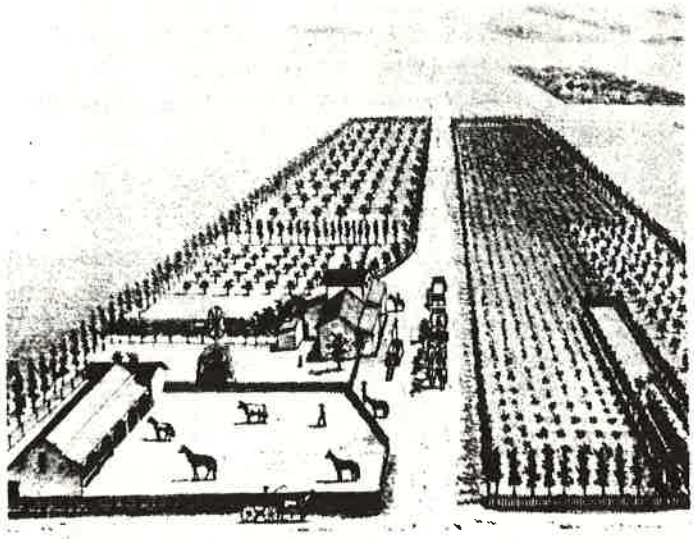
Knox Hotel Museum, El Cajon

EL CAJON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The La Mesa Historical Society invites its members to become better acquainted with the El Cajon Historical Society, which presented a slide program at the LMHS fall meeting and which will be providing an exhibit of historic photographs at the Champagne Brunch March 3.

The El Cajon Historical Society, founded in 1973, is an all-volunteer organization with approximately 375 members. The society operates the Knox Hotel Museum, which is owned by the City of El Cajon and located at the corner of Park and Magnolia. The oldest commercial building in El Cajon, the seven-room Knox Hotel was built in 1876 by Amaziah Knox on 10 acres on the south side of what is now Main Street, west of Magnolia. The hotel was purchased by the city and moved to its present location on city land in 1972. Visitors to the museum will see a variety of exhibits on El Cajon history plus several period-furnished rooms--kitchen, bedrooms, and child's bedroom. The museum is open on the first and third Saturdays, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and the first and fourth Thursdays, first and third Sundays, from 12:30 to 3:30. Special group tours may be arranged at other times. For further information please call the society at 444-3800.

Other programs of the El Cajon society include collecting artifacts, documents and photographs relating to El Cajon history; maintaining a library; presenting slide programs; conducting walking tours; and working with the El Cajon School District on the third-grade local history unit. One major project just completed has been the microfilming of all the copies of the El Cajon Valley News, dating back to the first issue in 1892, and those of its successor, the Daily Californian. The microfilm of these papers may be viewed by researchers on the museum's reader/printer. The society is also cooperating with SANDAG in a survey of historic structures sponsored by the City of El Cajon.



Travelers to Julian stopped at the Knox Hotel, shown here in an 1883 illustration.

GASLAMP QUARTER TOUR ENJOYED

On November 17, fourteen La Mesa Historical Society members and friends toured San Diego's historic Gaslamp Quarter. The tour, which was a gift to the Society from Diane Roberts, realized a profit of $35. Many of those attending the tour stayed on afterward to have lunch at Colombo's Downtown, which proved to be an excellent selection by Anita Underwood, who was also in charge of tour reservations.

:: La Mesa Springs Scout ::

AND "THE EAGLE"

W. B. Magruder, Publisher

The following communication has been handed the Scout for publication:

"Much complaint has been made concerning the protracted celebration on Saturday night. Are these aggrieved ones unreasonable, or have they just cause for complaint. No one lacked toleration and sympathy for the demonstration at the midnight hour which marked the passing of the old year; but when this racket began long before midnight and continued several hours after the affair lost its significance, and became a cause of discomfort to all, and to many of the sick, actual pain, it became intolerable. Unfortunately there are always persons to whom the "eternal fitness of things" never appears, in whom sentiment is so lacking that there is nothing incongruous to them in a misguided Fourth of July celebration to welcome the new year. Perhaps they should be pitied for this mental defect; but, where judgment fails, one might expect a sense of kindness and consideration for the rights of others to enter as a check to excess. Those persons to whom noise is synonymous with "a good time" should seek to gain a higher conception or learn self restraint for the sake of their neighbors who lack their vivid imagination and keen sense of humor."

Object to New Year Salutation

Most of us will be reminded that something did wake us up on the night in question. We haven't been able to get the details of the activities of the boys on Saturday evening. But from what we heard we should say that they were quite elaborate. We judged there was on hand somewhere near 100 pounds of dynamite, fourteen or sixteen anvils and a score of boys. Inject half a dram of enthusiasm into each boy, and such things as consideration for others and even respect for his own safety have left his mind exclusively to his devilment. Your boy is then no longer sane, he is alive. He is off the earth and living where there is no restraint.

A most decided improvement is being noted in our flume water of late. The water has almost entirely lost its odor of decayed vegetation, and the taste is again back to the normal. All this is no doubt due to the treatment to which it is being subjected in the settling dam at Alta. It is good to know that the water is yielding to the treatment for more than one reason: We are very glad that the water is improving, and because the water is being made better for the treatment, for the taste and smell of the algæ, we know that there was nothing more serious the matter with it in the first place. We are assured that there is nothing unhealthful in the water and that it is perfectly good except for the slightly offensive odor and taste of the algæ. But it is bad enough, and because we are now assured that the water is not unhealthful is not a reason for stopping the treatment. It has been noticed that some days the water is worse than others. This is probably due to some disturbance in the water in the reservoir. It shows plainly, however, that treatment is still needed.

Decided Improvement in the Water

La Mesa Springs Scout, January 6, 1911

LOCAL PARAGRAPHS.

La Mesa has no tramp sluggers. The report concerning Mr. Lott being slugged in La Mesa was in error. His troubles were all in San Diego, as he told those who were on the train with him as he came out from San Diego, and who said his bleeding wounds. No, nothing like that occurs in La Mesa.

There is more activity in the real estate business in this county than was ever known before. In and aroudn La Mesa many sales are being made. Large tracts of land are being bought for subdivision, and purchases of lots for homes are daily reported. If you want any lot, and have a chance to buy it, ask quick.

The La Mesa Restaurant is in temporary quarters while remodelling their former place. The dining room will be enlarged, a new kitchen built and other improvements made. As soon as they are in their improved home again La Mesans will hear from them. They ask the indulgence of the public while making these improvements.

The government supply wagon came in from Campo Tuesday for supplies. They left Campo Monday, when they said all was quiet. There was nothing in the reported scare at Campo, when the women and children were hiding and men running for safety. They think an engagement is sure near Campo between the Rebels and regular Mexican forces.

HOME GOODS FOR GOOD HOMES

La Mesa Furniture Store

H. A. McKINNEY, Prop.

HOME PHONE 261

AGENCY

THE BENBOUGH FURNITURE CO.

BRADLEY & WOOLMAN, Undertakers

T. W. DONAHOO

The Village Blacksmith and Wood Workman

WE MAKE A SPECIALTY OF TEMPERING ALL KINDS OF EDGED TOOLS
PRACTICAL HORSE-SHOEING. YOUR PATRONAGE CORDIALLY SOLICITED

La Mesa Springs Scout,

February 10, 1911

DONALD CHASE McKINNEY 1906-1984

Donald Chase McKinney, who died December 4, 1984 at the age of 77, was the youngest of three sons of Rev. Henry A. McKinney and his wife Florence and the last family member to live in the McKinney House.

When Donald McKinney was born on December 22, 1906 in La Mesa, the McKinneys were living in a small board-and-batten house on Date Avenue. Rev. and Mrs. McKinney had come to the San Diego area from Illinois with their two older sons, Cromwell and Joyce, in 1898, settling first in National City. Rev. McKinney, one of La Mesa's first ministers, was appointed pastor of La Mesa's Methodist Church in 1898, and traveled here to preach on Sundays. In 1901 the McKinneys moved to La Mesa where they lived in the Date Avenue house and cared for its surrounding orchard. Rev. McKinney last served as appointed minister in 1905.

In 1908 the McKinneys moved into their new house which they had had built in a two-and-one-half-acre lemon orchard on what is now University Avenue. Here Donald was to live until 1981, except for time in the military service. About the time the house was built, Rev. McKinney opened a furniture store on La Mesa Boulevard, which he operated until about 1920. The McKinneys supplemented this income by growing their own vegetables and some fruits and raising chickens and rabbits. Like his older brothers before him, Donald helped with such chores as delivering to the neighbors milk from the two McKinney cows.

Donald graduated from La Mesa Elementary School and later worked at the La Mesa Theater and in concrete construction. Beginning in 1929 when he was 23, he served in the National Guard in San Diego for a total of six years.



The McKinneys in front of their new home, circa 1909--Rev. Henry A. McKinney (1856-1930), Mrs. Florence McKinney (1864-1956), Joyce (born 1895), and Donald. The eldest son, Cromwell (1891-1960), is not pictured.



On the front porch are Don, his parents, and brother Joyce with his new bride Ruth, August 21, 1921. Joyce and Ruth had just been married by Rev. McKinney in the front room.

During World War II Donald was a corporal in the 309th Squadron, 31st Fighter Group, U.S. Army Air Corps, serving in campaigns in North Africa, Italy and France.

Following the war Donald worked for the Maxwell Furniture Store in La Mesa, which was operated by his brother-in-law, Leonard Maxwell. The McKinneys had begun taking in roomers in the 1920's, a practice Donald continued after his mother's death in 1956.

After the McKinney House was purchased by the newly-incorporated La Mesa Historical Society in 1975 for use as a house museum, Donald continued to live in a portion of the building and enjoyed greeting those who came to tour the home. Ill health forced him to enter a convalescent hospital in 1981, but he returned to attend Society events such as the Ice Cream Social.

Donald was a life member of the American Legion, La Mesa Post 282, and Legion activities were important to him. He was also a life member of the La Mesa Historical Society. He had been a member of the First United Methodist Church in La Mesa since childhood. Donald McKinney was a familiar figure in La Mesa, stopping in his daily walks to greet residents and downtown merchants.



Donald McKinney served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II.

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